

Series I
Correspondence,
1932-1973

Box 4, Folder 12

September 1, 1953 -
December 30, 1953

September 1, 1953

Dear "Legs":

It was nice to have gone to the Hazlett-Kessing wedding with you, among others, and I thoroughly enjoyed renewing a most friendly acquaintance. I thought the whole affair turned out very well indeed, and I hope that the wedding itself is as effective in its survival as our plans were. I flew back from Washington to Philadelphia with Babe, as you know. We went to his house, arriving about 2300, and we talked until about 0100. The Babe had a wonderful time on the whole trip. He now feels completely that we should have been in civilian clothes.

I have never congratulated you upon your accession to the throne of the Chief of the Bureau of Ships, although I know that in the plane I expressed my gratification. I think it is fine that you have decided to remain on as Chief, although I think that you are quite justified, in view of the numerous difficulties with which you and Wallin have been associated, to retire and take the fine job which has been offered to you. However, as I often tell my friends, the sole thing in this life worth anything is happiness. Sometimes money makes one happy; sometimes it creates great unhappiness. Only you can judge that.

Although I don't like to include business with pleasure, I have been wondering whether or not your office can give me any information which is up to date on the radars which were in use on the Japanese submarines at the time of the Battle for Leyte Gulf in October 1944. We have a lot of extraneous matter on the subject here, but nothing which could be considered as authoritative as something from BuShips. The Japanese submarines with which we are concerned were the I-26, 38, 41, 44, 45, 46, 53, 54, 56, the RO-41, 43, 46, 46, 49, 50, 109, and 112.

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What I am particularly interested in is their range detection while surfaced. I assume that, as regards periscopes, their periscopes were of the same qualifications as ours, as shown in USF 9, paragraph 1604.

If you desire that I submit a letter requesting information on Japanese submarine radar and periscope ranges, I will do so. The above is purely in an interrogatory vein to discover whether you would have the information, and it came up merely because I am working on Japanese submarine operations during the Battle for Leyte Gulf at this very moment.

Give my best to Mary C. As for yourself, best of luck in whatever you do. As ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Rear Admiral W. D. Leggett, Jr., USN
Chief of the Bureau of Ships
Room 3036, MAIN NAVY
Navy Department
Washington 25, D. C.

0003

September 2, 1953

Dear Legs:

Had I had these pamphlets yesterday, I would have included them in my note to you. However, I didn't have them so I am sending them today.

Mr. Millard, who is the head of this Avica Corporation, is a former English naval officer who served in BuAer during the war. He recently developed the fittings described in these pamphlets. You might find them useful in a lot of places, not the least which might be oil lines. Mr. Millard told me yesterday that he had just signed a contract with the Garrett Corporation (?) (a concern on the West Coast which will represent him in the western states). He also said that the Douglas Aircraft Corporation had purchased hundreds of them. I thought the flexible hose might also have some value.

I am not pressing these items and I have not been asked by Avica to send them to you at all. I merely happened to see the pamphlets in a group of papers in Mr. Millard's house, where I visit on occasions. I was interested in them, asked about them, and asked if I might have these copies.

Once again, it was nice seeing you again, but it was disappointing not to see Mary C.

With very best regards, I am,

Your old friend,

R.W. BATES

Encl/

Rear Admiral Wilson D. Leggett, Jr., USN
Chief, Bureau of Ships
Room 3036, MAIN NAVY
Department of the Navy
Washington 25, D.C.

0004

September 21, 1953

Dear Jack:

It is about a week since the party you gave at the Club 21 for Admiral Carney, so feeling a little energetic I am seizing this opportunity to write you a letter of appreciation.

Very frankly, I thought the party excellent, the guest list excellent, food excellent, and the introductions by yourself outstanding! I thought that you were unusually clever in typing your projected "commentators" to the whole picture. I know that Mick Carney enjoyed it very much because he told me so, and I thought that yours and Halsey's introduction of Carney were amusing and Carney's reply showed that he is quick on the repartee.

You were extremely thoughtful to have included me in this affair because Mick and I are old friends--he told me that my letter on his ascension to office as CNO was the finest he had received and he was going to save it.

Now that the Yanks have won the American League Championship you can relax. I hope that you will do so. No one can keep operating at high tension for long and you know it. So take it easy!

We had a delightful evening Friday night when the Reading Room played Bocce with the girls. This is an annual event and the only time women are allowed in the Club.

At your luncheon your friend Rex Smith presented me with my

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membership in the Admiral's Club. I told him to forget it, that I wasn't pressing him for it, and was doubtful if I wanted it. However, he sent out and got it for me anyway. He is really a nice fellow--just a little too busy.

With very best regards to you and with hopes that you are enjoying the best of life, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R.W. BATES

Captain John J. Bergen, USNR
40 Wall Street
New York 5, N.Y.

September 23, 1953

Dear old Swede:

I want to thank you very much for your letter concerning my visit to North Carolina to attend the wedding of your daughter. It was a very happy occasion for me to go. I am extremely fond of you and Ibby and of your two children, both of whom are credits to your family.

The trip wasn't too serious a one because Babe looked out for me in Philadelphia and I did not depart until eleven the next morning.

I thought the wedding was nice, although, very frankly, I didn't like the priest at all, and to all intents and purposes told him so. I thought the reception was very well handled and I enjoyed exceedingly meeting your friends.

It seems ridiculous in these days of air travel that it is so hard to get together, even for short visits. However, I operate on a leave basis, as I am on active duty, and with the difficulties in California I had no leave which I could expend anywhere except in that area. Now I am trying to build up leave again, as my eldest brother is fairly ill and Heaven only knows whether or not I shall have to go out there again. I don't think so, but could be.

I thought Ibby looked perfectly beautiful at the wedding and the reception. She is a wonderful woman and obviously a glorious wife. You are very lucky indeed. On the other hand, I thought you looked better than I had expected to see you; but you did look a little tired. Naturally I asked myself: "Why not?" With the wedding, the reception and other parties, and your problems in other fields, you were bound to be tired. I find up here that as you get older you get tired automatically. Sometimes I get tired when I'm doing nothing; again, I feel swell when I am doing the most. In many cases, it is purely a mental proposition.

I wouldn't worry about the check I sent Alice. I could well spare it, and I felt she was entitled to it in view of my relationship to her. As a matter of fact, ~~Scrappy~~ Kessing hopped on me for it. He said that it was too big and that it was the province of parents to look out for that. Naturally, I don't subscribe to that at all, and frankly I don't think he does, either.

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My book is progressing well, and I think it is up to the reputed high standard of the others. At least we are endeavoring to make it so. It is quite difficult because there are so many papers, dispatches and so forth to search, and therefore progress is relatively slow.

I was extremely sorry not to have had a chance to talk to you about many things, but the leave situation and the question of planes made it difficult to do so. Besides, you were too busy and your mind was entirely on other things.

Give my best regards to Ibbey.

As ever,

Your old friend,

Captain E. E. Hazlett, USN(Ret.)
1001 Dawes Street
Chapel Hill
North Carolina

0008

September 23, 1953

Dear Jim:

I appreciate your farewell letter very much, and want you to know that you are thoroughly missed around here. I can't imagine any rector coming into this difficult area and accomplishing as much in a limited amount of time as you did. You will be very successful in your new pastorate.

Peter Chase is doing well in your place. Everybody wants to help him, and everybody is helping him, so the load will not be as heavy to bear as he feared. Last Sunday he conducted a service at Trinity similar to the one you arranged two years ago, for the HMS Superb. The church was crowded, the British Commodore and I read the lessons (in uniform), the British chaplain preached an excellent sermon, and the congregation was quite properly impressed.

I have been quite concerned as to who is to be my rolling partner in the Reading Room if you are not there for me to roll against. Must I discover a new companion?

I want to say again that the congregation and the vestry all have profited by their association with you, and seriously miss your capable, cheery presence in the guidance of our beloved Trinity.

With best regards to you and to your Mrs, I am,
as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

The Reverend James R. McColl, III
St. Thomas's Church
Whitemarsh
Pennsylvania

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September 28, 1953

Dear Mr. Riso:

It was very thoughtful of you to send me my blue blazer, but unfortunately I am sorry you did, because in my opinion it requires refitting. Therefore, I am not able to use it.

In my opinion there are three major faults with it:

- (1) It is too large.
- (2) It is too long.
- (3) The two front buttons are too low so that they tend to cover up my belly button and zipper rather than being higher than that.

I will be in New York presently and will bring the blazer so that you can make the necessary corrections. Otherwise it is alright. I think I want to have some letters embroidered on the left pocket, but what they will be I don't know yet, but I will tell you when I decide.

With best wishes and hoping that you won't take this too seriously, I am,

Sincerely,

R.W. BATES,
Rear Admiral, U.S.N.

Mr. Eugene J. Riso
12-14 East 46th Street
New York, N.Y.

0010

Letter dated September 29th, 1953 from Doctor C.E.H. Bates, M.D.,
F.A.C.S. to Rear Admiral R.W. Bates.

"Charley is not well. He went over to Korea in good health, except that he had lost his hearing on both sides in the upper tones. This had not improved after three months off the rifle range. This was verified at Letterman Hospital, at Camp Roberts and at Camp Stoneman. On board ship he developed severe ringing in the ears and was told he had to report in at the Base Hospital, Sasebo, Japan. At Sasebo they said there was no ear man there. He was told to get combat clothes on and a rifle. He was put back on the ship and sent to Inchon and then by rail to Chun Wong and assigned to the 45th Infantry Division. About two months later he developed a temperature of 104, severe diarrhea and was sent by ambulance over the mountains to Seoul. He was returned a week or so later when he began passing blood from his colon. He was sent back to the Base Hospital 121--they put him on a train and sent him to Pusan to Evacuation Hospital 21. They made all kind of tests looking for malaria and I suppose amoeba, they finally told him they thought it was nerves. They couldn't find anything else the matter with him and returned him to duty.

"Charley wrote me today that the diarrhea has continued and that he is very shaky and is losing weight. He is afraid to report to the Doctors again because they do things that make him lose more weight.

"I have advised him to report to his Medical Officer and tell him the true story of his state of health and that if they

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couldn't cure him over there they will have to send him home.

"Dick, in my opinion, as an ear specialist, they had no right to send him off in the first place, that although he had an order which I saw myself which said 'no combat duty' he was assigned to a front line division. He has picked up an infection, dysentery of some kind, is losing weight and is developing a nervous symptom, something which he never had before. He has been in Evacuation Hospitals both in Seoul and Pusan and I believe that Charley should be sent home for treatment in this country. He is not squawking. He wanted to do his part and went to Korea and now his last letter shows discouragement and is that of a sick man. We must get him out of Korea. He was a healthy kid a few months ago."

October 2, 1953

Dear Babe:

I heard with a great deal of disappointment and yet, at the same time, with a great deal of satisfaction that you had been retired ahead of time leaving Admiral Conolly the only one of your class on active duty. My disappointment is, of course, that you are disabled, although you do not appear to be suffering from it, and I hope that you never will. On the other hand, there is an advantage in that you will have tax exemption of some kind. How much, I do not know, and frankly it is not any of my business. My satisfaction is that you will remain on active duty until January 1st when your relief arrives.

I should appreciate your kindness if you will advise me whether or not the tax exempt provision applies while you are on active duty. You spoke to me about that when I was in Philadelphia and I could not answer. It is a very important point and I would love to know the decision in your case.

Give my best regards to Nell and as for yourself, my affection is always with you, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Vice Admiral John H. Brown, Jr., USN (Ret)
Commandant FOURTH Naval District
U.S. Naval Base
Philadelphia 12, Pa.

0013

October 8, 1953

Dear Admiral Spruance:

It was with a great deal of pleasure that I discovered that you were in Newport. On the other hand, it was with a great deal of regret that I was unable to see you.

I had hoped that I would see you this morning because I thought you said that you were leaving at 0840 so I got up early and started calling your house at 0740 this morning. Your daughter-in-law answered the telephone and said that you had left at 0530. She further stated that in view of the butler's telephone call she had expected that I would call in person last evening. I would certainly have liked to do that and, in fact, talked it over with Mrs. Kenneth Safe, who was at the Warren's dinner, but decided against it for two reasons: (a) We didn't complete dinner until 2130 and (b) you came here to see your family--not me. The fact that the butler called you was not of my ordering and I knew nothing of it until this morning.

I was wonderful to talk to you on the telephone and to know that you and Margaret are well and enjoying your assignment in the Philippines. It is too bad that you didn't remain one day more, so that your many friends could have seen you. The hallowed halls of the War College would also have liked to see you, and I feel sure that a talk on the Philippines would have been very timely to the staff and students.

Thanks for coming around to see me--I appreciate your kindness no end, but I was evidently still at the War College when you appeared at my home.

With best regards and best wishes, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R.W. BATES

Admiral Raymond A. Spruance, USN(Ret)
Army-Navy Club
17th and I Streets
Washington, D.C.

0014

Letter dated October 14th, 1953 from C.E.H. Bates, M.D., F.A.C.S.,
to Rear Admiral R.W. Bates.

"And then he developed this severe high tone hearing loss, with ringing in his ears which he says has not subsided. I have a copy of his last hearing test taken a few days ago at Evac. Hosp. 121 which shows no improvement, and in which the examining specialist says no duty in area of noise. This means in my opinion, by now, that Charley has premanently lost the upper range of his hearing. Of course, he can hear loud conversation, only a part of the speaking range is involved, the upper part. His tinnitus (ringing) is annoying and makes it difficult to concentrate. Men commit suicide because of severe tinnitus. A Major wanted Charley transferred to his outfit further up (Field Artillery) and Charley said, 'well if there is noise up there I can't go.' He showed the Major his papers, and the Major told him that they had no right to send him over there in the first place, WHICH IS TRUE! Charley says they think he is trying to get out of his assignments because he is yellow or something, altho he didn't use that word. He is upset about it.

"We don't believe he is pulling a fast one, if he was I would not do anything to help him. He should learn to take it just as the others have to, but we all feel with the information we have, we must help him to get out of Korea. I would have preferred to see him finish his time, but if he is ill then it would be dangerous for him to stay there, and unfair to his morale. You know Charley, before he got sick, wrote us and said he was glad to be in Korea, that it was dirty but beautifull and he seemed to be enjoying his service there."

0015

October 16, 1953

Dear Lynde:

I've been thinking of you recently for several reasons. The first reason is that I came across "This I Believe" comments presented by Edward R. Murrow. I think that what you had to say was excellent. Captain Puleston disagreed on the ground that you are a little too tolerant of the world's frailties. I think I have satisfactorily cleared Captain Puleston's mind.

The second reason is that at Trinity Church Men's Club tonight our Rector, who was in London during the Coronation, is going to discuss the Coronation and the Spiritual factors connected therewith. In view of the fact that he met the Archbishop of Canterbury in a personal meeting, and in further view of the fact that the Rector has motion pictures which he took himself of the Coronation scenes I feel sure that the talk will be very good indeed. All of this reminds me of the fact that you were in the Abbey during the Coronation and will have much more to tell me on that subject when I see you again. This brings up my third reason.

You perhaps know by now that Admiral Conolly is to be President of Long Island University commencing November 2nd. This leaves a vacancy in the Presidency here. No one knows who is to relieve him. Since I do not think that any position in the Navy is more important today than the Presidency of the Naval War College, I am hoping that whoever occupies it will bring it that prestige, experience, intelligence and understanding which are so essential. You have these qualifications to a very high degree. Long ago I knew that you were slated for this post, and wished it. Are we to be honored by your acceptance? You have long had my vote you know!

Weather conditions up here are delightful right now. The leaves are changing from red to gold to brown, in other words a russet hue. Everything is lovely.

That is everything except Mrs. Spike (Kay) Fahrion who lost her father a day or so ago. He was 82, a retired Army Colonel, and had been ill a long time.

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I hope that you are in fine health. You are a wonderful person and have contributed much to your Country's welfare. My hope is that the Country will still profit from you and yours.

Give my very best to that beloved wife of yours. She had always been "tops" in my books and I always look forward to seeing her again.

With very best regards to you both. I am as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Admiral Lynde D. McCormick
Commander-in-Chief,
Atlantic and U.S. Atlantic Fleet and
Supreme Allied Commander, Atlantic
Naval Base (South Annex),
Norfolk 11, Virginia

0017

November 12, 1953

Dear Tex:

I received a letter today, a copy herewith attached, wherein Donald PEFFERKORN, YN1, USN, asked me to assist him to get an assignment in your Naval District.

From what I know about PEFFERKORN he is a very capable man and from what I have seen of him he is a high type. Therefore, he would be acceptable in either recruiting duty or shore duty. Would you be willing for someone on your Staff to look this matter up and address me a reply so that I might write PEFFERKORN?

Now that I have settled that, I want to say that it was with a great deal of pleasure that I found that you were the Commandant of the EIGHTH Naval District. That is a charming area to be in. I note that you have just completed your 58th birthday which leaves you still a young man with four years more of service, so perhaps you will be going to sea again presently. I wish you well!

The War College is getting along fine although we recently lost Admiral Conolly to Long Island University. The Chief of Staff, Admiral Robbins is holding the fort until some new President is chosen presumably in the Spring. I am now working on the Battle for Leyte Gulf and my first Volume will go to the press presently. It is long battle and takes much time, and will perhaps cover as many as four volumes. I will be interested in hearing your comments on Volume I after you have read it.

Give my best regards to your Mrs. My very best wishes go to both of you for a very Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas.

Your old friend,

R.W. BATES

Rear Admiral Thomas G.W. Settle, USN
Commandant EIGHTH Naval District
New Orleans, La.

0018

NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

November 12, 1953

Dear Colonel Fojt:

It is with a great deal of satisfaction that I write to you this morning to thank you and through you Colonels Bailey and Hayward and all of the other Marine Officers who were hosts, for your kindness in inviting me to the Marine Corps Birthday dinner Tuesday night. Needless to say, I enjoyed myself and thought the dinner arrangements beautifully done. I enjoyed the cocktails before dinner and the excellent dinner afterwards. I appreciated hearing Colonel Hayward's reading of the fundamental order on Marine Corps' birthdays, likewise I enjoyed your reading of General Shepherd's message to the Marine Corps, and thought General Little, in his few spoken words, represented the high traditions of the Corps.

I thought Colonel Hayward's officer escort for the colors was very snappy and I enjoyed seeing them function. I have never before seen the colors paraded in this fashion at a Marine Corps birthday party and therefore I feel that its inclusion was an excellent addition to an already beautiful ceremony.

As I have repeatedly said all through my Navy career, I think that the Marine Corps represents all that is best in life, not only in military life but in other factors as well. It has justifiably gained for itself world-wide recognition for its high morale, its high valor, and its incomparable combat ability gained over many battlefields. It has traditions which spring from the fundamental human virtues, notably courage, honor, loyalty, devotion to ideals and a fundamental belief in the righteousness of its cause, whatever such cause may be.

NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

Since the Marine Corps was officially established before the Navy, I feel that this was done by Congress so that the Navy, during its birth, might be adequately protected.

Once again, let me thank you for the great privilege which I enjoyed in being a guest of the Marine Officers of the Naval War College at this birthday party. I can assure you that it was an inspiration.

With kindness regards,

Sincerely,

R.W. BATES

Colonel Robert E. Fojt, USMC
Naval War College
Newport, R.I.

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NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

November 16, 1953

Dear Lem:

The Marine Corps' birthday has passed and since it was very well celebrated up here I thought I would write you a letter about it so you might know how well your representatives functioned in this area on that memorable day.

I have attended about six of these parties now and each year they seem to improve in quality although after each of them I always feel that they have reached their apex. This year I was very pleased to see that in addition to the various ceremonies of previous years they had introduced the "colors" escorted by a bodyguard consisting of four Colonels, two Lieutenant Colonels, one Major and a Captain. It was very smart. All of the above officers connected with the color ceremony carried their sabers. I am glad to see that you have retained the saber for the Marines despite the fact that the Navy has dropped the sword. There is something martial about a sword or a saber and who can be more martial than the U.S. Marines! I think that this birthday party idea is a wonderful thing and I am sure that everyone present at the Naval War College Marine Corps Officers' party were inspired by it.

It commenced with a cocktail party with nearly all guests in uniform. Then with the many guests standing at their seats at the dining room table, the "colors" and the officer escort commanded by Colonel Hayward entered with music provided by the commissioned officer's mess. This was followed by the reading of the Marine Corps basic order for this day by Colonel Hayward, and by the reading of your birthday message to the Marine Corps by

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NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

Colonel Fojt. Then General Little gave a short moving talk, and cut the birthday cake. General Little did a good job in this and although he looks rather fragile, he seemed to grow in stature as he spoke and cut the cake.

In view of the above I want to take this opportunity of telling you of how much I appreciated the privilege of being a guest on this occasion. I also wish to repeat here to you what I told your senior Colonel here (Colonel Fojt) of my thoughts with relation to the Marine Corps. I told him that I thought that the Marine Corps represented the highest values of military service; that its high morale, high valor, incomparable combat ability demonstrated on many battlefields, and its high traditions which spring from the fundamental human virtues, notably courage, honor, loyalty and the belief in the righteousness of its cause, had gained it well deserved world-wide acclaim and I was proud therefore to be a brother-in-arms.

With regards to yourself, to General Thomas and your Staff, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R.W. BATES

General Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr., USMC
Commandant, U.S. Marine Corps
Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps
Washington 25, D.C.

0022

November 17, 1953

Dear Captain Smith:

I hope that you haven't been worrying about your article "F.D.R. meets Ibn Saud", but I have been passing it around the War College where those who have read it found it highly interesting.

I have attached a couple of notes; one by the Honorable Edward S. Crocker is of importance because Mr. Crocker was recently Ambassador to Iraq and is now on the Staff of the War College here and one by Admiral T.H. Robbins who is Acting President of the War College. I frankly agree that it is a fascinating article. It has the ear-marks of being prepared for publication; I certainly hope so.

I want to thank you for your kind handling of MORRILL YH2. He appears quite satisfied and we are also.

With many thanks again for the loan of the article, I am,
as ever,

Very sincerely yours,

R.W. BATES.

Encl/

Captain B.A. Smith, USN
Bureau of Naval Personnel
Arlington Annex, Room 2827A
Navy Department
Washington 25, D.C.

0023

November 17, 1953

Dear General Armstrong:

This is in reference to your letter MEDPD-1B 201 Bates, Charles E. (EM) of 3 November 1953.

I wish to thank you for your letter. I was disappointed, however, because I thought that I had explained to Colonel Prescott who, by the way, is an extremely fine gentleman, about my nephew's case. The boy's father--my brother--is an ear, nose and throat specialist of San Francisco, is a graduate of Cornell Medical College and Manhattan Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital, is the Chief of the Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic of St. Luke's Hospital and is, all in all, a very capable specialist in the ear, nose and throat field. He has written me about his son and his son's condition, which condition, in my mind, is an unhappy one and I feel confident that once you have received the whole story you will feel a little different than you did in your letter above referred to.

Doctor Bates is a wearer of the Distinguished Service Cross himself and the Croix de Guerre with Palm. He was a Lieutenant of Infantry in World War I, and would have had no objection to his son being sent into battle had he been physically fit but such is not the case.

I have taken the liberty of reopening this case with you, General Armstrong, because I think that it was unwise to send a man with the condition that my nephew has to Korea. I base this thought on the fact that many doctors, civilian as well as military, have told me that he never should have been sent to Korea at this time, but should have been retained where there was less noise until his ears had improved.

I am sure that if you or your staff had known the facts in this case you would not have employed the word "allegation." Therefore, on the basis that you do not have all of the facts I have decided to present them to you in the form of extracts from two recent letters from Private Bates' father. These extracts are attached hereto.

There can be no doubt that Private Bates has binaural deafness. However, I wonder if you knew that he had it

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before he went overseas; that there had been an entry thereon made in his record and that he carried a copy of the order which stated plainly that he was not to be sent where there was any noise. Was this effective? It would appear not for Private Bates was put in assignments where the noise level was not conducive to the improvement of his hearing.

Private Bates and his father both feel that he has been handled in somewhat surprising fashion in that, despite his deafness and the recommendations thereon at the time by the medical staff in the United States, he was sent overseas, pushed directly into a front line division, and told during the combat phase of the Korean war that if he made any further complaints about his condition he would be sent up to the front line for duty. This was, of course, contrary to the recommendations of Evacuation Hospital 121 which had recommended that he was to be placed where there was no noise. In connection with the above I wish to state that I recognize fully that this recommendation was not final, and that, in the end, he was always subject to the orders of the line officers who were charged with obtaining victory. But what is the need today as regards Private Bates?

I realize that there is a tendency to blame all of Private Bates troubles on a neurosis, although such a diagnosis is not mentioned in your letter. I agree that it is likely that he has a neurosis, but don't you think that a young man of but 20 years of age having been given to understand that he was going deaf would undoubtedly have a neurosis of some kind? Surely it cannot be a neurosis arising from fear of combat for there is no combat now.

I asked Colonel Prescott to recommend that Private Bates be removed to some place where the Army has an outstanding medical staff including ear men. Colonel Prescott assured me that such a recommendation would be made and that it would be Japan. I wished this done because it is obvious that Private Bates had lost confidence in the medical staff in Korea since nothing has been done there to alleviate his condition.

There is no doubt that within the Army there is wonderful medical care available, but I think it seems clear that Private Bates had not profited by it.

In view of the above, I request that Private Bates be placed somewhere where he has a chance--if such a chance now exists--

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of restoring his hearing and correcting his dysentary. Japan would, I am sure, be satisfactory to both Private Bates and Doctor Bates if there is a competent "ear" staff there and if the correct medical treatment is available. It would certainly be satisfactory to me.

As regards myself, I wish to state that I am an officer of 42 years naval service, have held five commands at sea, am a wearer of the Navy Cross and am on duty at the Naval War College where I am writing the Strategical and Tactical Analysis of the major naval battles of World War II, with particular reference to command.

Finally, I will be in Washington presently and hope at that time to have an opportunity of discussing this matter with you personally.

Sincerely,

R.W. BATES

Encls/

Major General George E. Armstrong, USA(MC)
The Surgeon General
Department of the Army
Washington 25, D.C.

December 1, 1953

Dear Red:

In looking through my papers I discovered that I had not replied to your very nice note of some months ago relative to the USS PITTSBURGH. I noted in your letter that you were to be there about four months so I presume that you are now at sea. Needless to say, I was very proud of you when you got command of the PITTSBURGH. A cruiser command is a fine command and is exactly what I wanted in World War II. I asked for command of a ship in Cruiser Division SIX, which was the MINNEAPOLIS Division. I did this because I wanted to be in at the beaches with the landing forces and where I knew I would be under fire. I felt that the newer cruisers would be with the fast carriers where there was no responsibility whatsoever.

I don't know where the good ship PITTSBURGH will operate, but there has been a PITTSBURGH in the Navy for a long time and whichever PITTSBURGH it was it has always been in the limelight. The old four-stack PITTSBURGH which was launched as the PENNSYLVANIA and operated as the PENNSYLVANIA for many years lived a beautiful life in the armored-cruiser squadron, and ended up as the flagship of the Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Fleet and later of the Asiatic Fleet. The four-stacks frightened the Chinese to death!

The new PITTSBURGH, which is probably the ship you command, lost her bow in 1944 in the typhoon off the Marianas and this created quite a sensation. I would suggest, if you wish to enjoy your cruise, that you choose to follow the first PITTSBURGH rather than the second. Let the new successful PITTSBURGH be Gallery's PITTSBURGH!

The War College is doing fine and although we lost Admiral Conolly, Admiral Robbins is handling it very well indeed. We don't know who the new President will be, but a likely candidate is Admiral McCormick.

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I went to the Army-Navy Game. Although the game was delightful to see, our team was very inferior. We were out-tackled, out-played and, worst of all, out-fought! I was not impressed.

With best regards to yourself and to Louise, I am, as ever,

Your old friend

R.W. BATES

Captain P.D. Gallery, USN
Commanding Officer
U.S.S. PITTSBURGH (CA 72)
c/o Fleet Post Office
New York, N.Y.

0028

December 7, 1953

Dear Babe:

This is a note to thank you and Nell for the delightful pre-game luncheon which you gave at your quarters on the day of the Army-Navy Game. My friends, (Mrs Axel Jonssen and Mr & Mrs Howard Taylor Jr.) whom you permitted to come with me, have been to these same receptions for quite a few years and they say that in their opinion this party was the nicest of them all. The reason for this was that it was not too crowded and the food was superior. Naturally, the drinks were normal.

I met a lot of people there and was certainly glad to see them, notably T. Joy, H. Hill, and your old friend Bill Hollenback.

The Army-Navy Game followed exactly the pattern which I had forecast to you at your house upon our return from Hazlett-Kessing wedding in North Carolina. If you will remember at the time I was concerned over the inability of the Navy team to tackle, block, and hold on to the ball. This situation as you know obtained at the Army-Navy game and to my surprise Ederlatz stated at the end of the game that it was a question of blocking and tackling. My brother who is quite a football authority from California while concurring with the above views--the lack of fundamentals--stated that the team didn't have the old fight that he had heard of for so many years, and pointed out three players by number who had done nothing throughout the whole game. This was the brother that I wanted to meet you because he is what is called a "California Great." Anyway, it is all over and we shall look forward to another year.

As I realize that this is your last pre-game party as host, I want to say here how much the Navy will miss you and Nell. However, you know, of course, that even though you retire you will not be forgotten in the minds of the multitude, instead you will be happily remembered by many for long years to come. That is a satisfaction given to few.

With best regards and appreciations for your many courtesies to me, and to my guests I am, as ever,

Rear Admiral John H. Brown, Jr. USN Your old friend,
Commandant FOURTH Naval District
U.S. Naval Base
Philadelphia, Pa.

R. W. BATES

0029

14 December 1953

Dear Archie:

In accordance with your suggestion, often expressed, I am returning herewith, via Mr. Doyle, your book "Sea Duty." Needless to say, I have been delighted with this book and with the part on the Massie case. Your brother handled himself in a magnificent fashion and I was very interested to note what he had to say about this case. Since I was his direct agent in it, he issued me two fitness reports headed "Conspicuous Service" and when he asked me later to serve on his Staff when he went to sea as a four-star Admiral, I realized that he had an affection for me. I certainly thought a lot of him.

You have been very tolerant with me in this book matter. I will admit that I have been very slow in returning to to you. Of course, I realize that you don't want to get the book back excepting as necessary to keep it from getting lost. This is a laudable desire since nearly every book loaned is not returned.

Anyway I enjoyed reading it; you enjoy having it returned; we both had the highest affection for the writer; I hope everyone is happy.

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES.

✓
Commander Archibold Stirling, USN (Ret)
8 Red Cross Terrace
Newport, R. I.

0030

December 18, 1953

Gentlemen:

Please send one box of your Gift No. 33T to the following address:

✓ Mrs. Clark McIlwaine
Bellevue Avenue
Newport, R.I.

A check for \$2.95 to cover the purchase of the above gift box is enclosed.

Yours very truly,

R.W. BATES
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy.

Encl/

Paso del Oro Rancho
P.O. Box 1004
Modesto, California

0031

December 18, 1953

Copy to Mr. No. 60
Gentlemen:

Please send one box each of your Gift No. ~~337~~ to the following addresses:

- (CARISTRANO)*
- ✓ 1. Rear Admiral and Mrs. C.L. Andrews, Jr.
"Land Fall", Brenton Road
Newport, R.I.
 - ✓ 2. Mr. & Mrs. G. Bogart Blakeley
"Tusitala", Honeyman Hill
Middletown, R.I.
 - ✓ 3. Lord and Lady Camoys
"Stonor Lodge" Bellevue Avenue
Newport, R.I.
 - ✓ 4. Mrs. Guy Fairfax
"Elm Court", Bellevue Avenue
Newport, R.I.
 - ✓ 5. Captain Kenneth Castleman
"Chart House", Oakwood Terrace
Newport, R.I.
 - ✓ 6. ~~Lieutenant~~ *Commander* & Mrs. H.G. Cushing
"The Ledges", Ocean Avenue
Newport, R.I.
 - ✓ 7. Mr. & Mrs. C. Mathews Dick
"Clover Patch", Bowery Street
Newport, R.I..
 - ✓ 8. Captain & Mrs. A.H. Douglas
58 Kay Street
Newport, R.I.
 - ✓ 9. Mr. & Mrs. Barclay Douglas
~~"The Pipples", Barclay Square~~
Newport, R.I. *Ridge Road*
 - ✓ 10. Rear Admiral & Mrs. Henry E. Eccles
"Back Acre", 101 Washington Street
Newport, R.I.

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11. Mr. & Mrs. ~~Edward J. Eyre~~
"Rutland Lodge", 90 Rhode Island Avenue
Newport, R.I.
12. Mr. & Mrs. ~~Joseph W. Frazer~~
"Mare Haute", Ocean Drive
Newport, R.I. *MA Mrs Gurnee Dyer
Furness
RDFI
Newport
RF*
- ✓ 13. Mr. & Mrs. James Beck
"Plaisance", Ledge Road
Newport, R.I.
- ✓ 14. Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Phinney *Grosvenor*
"Wynndham", Beacon Hill Road
Newport, R.I.
- ✓ 15. Mr. & Mrs. William Grosvenor
"Hilltop", Ruggles Avenue
Newport, R.I.
- ✓ 16. ~~Admiral~~ & Mrs. Edward C. Kalbfus
"Restmere", Miantonomi Avenue
Newport, R.I.
- ✓ 17. Mrs. John D.H. Kane
32 Catherine Street
Newport, R.I.
- ✓ 18. Mr. & Mrs. LeRoy King
"Indian Spring", Mooreland Road
Newport, R.I.
- ✓ 19. Commodore & Mrs. H.B. Mecleary
"Twin Beeches", 38 Catherine Street
Newport, R.I.
- ✓ 20. Mrs. Reginald Norman
"Belair", Old Beach Road
Newport, R.I.
- ✓ 21. Mrs. C. Oliver O'Donnell
"Cave Cliff", LeRoy Avenue
Newport, R.I.
- ✓ 22. Major and Mrs. C.D.L. Pepys
"Holly House", Berkeley Avenue
Newport, R.I.
- ✓ 23. Mr. & Mrs. Henry D. Phelps
"Slate Hill Farm", East Main Road,
Middletown, R.I.
- ✓ 24. Mr. & Mrs. Ottavio Prochet *The Wanes*
~~"Stonybrook", Indian Avenue~~
Newport, R.I.

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- ✓ 38. Rear Admiral & Mrs. Thomas H. Robbins, Jr.
President's House
Naval Station
Newport, R.I.
- ✓ *McDonnell* 39. Admiral & Mrs. Richard L. Conolly
President's House
New Campus, Long Island University
Brookville, L.I., New York
- ✓ 40. Commander & Mrs. Albert H. Bowker
32 Esplanade
Middletown, R.I.
- ✓ 41. Commander & Mrs. Stanley E. Hindman
95 Kay Street
Newport, R.I.
- ✓ 42. Commander & Mrs. Charles A. Marinko
213 Tuokerman Avenue
Middletown, R.I.
- ✓ 43. Chief Yeoman & Mrs. M.W. Burton
113 Cooledge Street
Revere 51, Mass.
44. Chief Quartermaster & Mrs. S.T. Trembath
103 Champlin Place
Newport, R.I.
45. Yeoman & Mrs. L.J. Baerlinger
1011 Washington Street
Newtonville, Mass.
- ✓ 46. Yeoman & Mrs. C.C. Morrill
1B Constellation Avenue
Middletown, R.I.

A check for \$135.70 to cover the purchase of the above forty-six gift boxes is enclosed.

Yours very truly

R.W. BATES
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy.

Encl/

0035

18 December 1953

Dear Captain Rogers:

I don't like to dun you about a matter which you may not have been able to attend to yet, but I am anxious to receive your reply to the queries of Professor Armstrong of Columbia University.

I should appreciate your courtesy if you would expedite the return of Professor Armstrong's letter and with it your reply as I have now had it for too long a time not to have replied to him.

With best wishes for a Merry Christmas, I am, as ever,

Sincerely yours,

R.W. BATES

Captain T.W. Rogers, USN
Bureau of Ships
Room 3020A MAIN NAVY
Department of the Navy
Washington 25, D.C.

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December 29, 1953

Dear Babe & Jack:

I have wanted to write to you for sometime to extend to you the Season's Greetings and to tell you what a pleasure it has been over the years to have known you as well as I feel I do. You are true friends and fine people withal, which makes your team a delightful combination.

I missed you the other night at "Club 21" where I took my brother and his wife from San Francisco and their son and daughter and their respective wife and husband so that there were a total of seven. Robert Kriendler looked out for us admirably and I am very appreciative. I saw your son Johnny there with his stunning wife. I say stunning advisedly because I thought that she looked very smart indeed. I was startled because the last time I saw her she was much heavier, and the comparison was quite noticeable. Childbirth is an effective beautifier!

I was glad, Jack, to note that you had been made a Vice President of the Navy League of the United States. This is a very important assignment today, as the Navy is fighting a rear-guard action in some ways and needs a little outside help to support its obviously correct position. I am very anxious, however, that in this assignment you don't overdo yourself. You are a man of great capabilities and drive and never spare yourself. You will discover presently how readily other people permit you to take all of the responsibilities. I want you to take some of them, but not all of them. My reasons for this are three-fold. Firstly, because I want you to retain your health which can be seriously affected if you overdo yourself--"look at me!" Secondly, because I think you will contribute more to the Navy League if instead of being the driving power all of the time you only move in at intervals and then for the sole purpose of giving an impulse to your projects whatever they may be, when the drive behind them begins to lessen. Thirdly,

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because your own business must require your personal acumen and attention a great part of the time.

I hope to see you presently, until then let me wish you both a belated Merry Christmas and an enthusiastic wish for a very Happy New Year!

Your old friend,

R.W. BATES.

Captain John J. Bergen, USNR
John J. Bergen & Company
40 Wall Street
New York, N.Y.

RWB:mwb

0038

December 30, 1953

Dear Roger:

I am in receipt of your letter of December 28th and am hastening to reply to it because the officer to whom I am about to refer is soon to leave the Washington area.

First I want to say that you have the correct affair i.e., the Noa and the Emerald. Second, I want to say that I have talked with Mrs. R. C. Smith, the wife of the Captain of the Noa in the Nanking Affair. She says that although Captain Smith could not remember making the statement, "A Navy Cross or a General Court Martial, he thought it quite likely that he had made it because everyone said that he did.

His son, Commander R. C. Smith, III lives at 125 West Cameron Road, Falls Church, Virginia, telephone - Jefferson 2-8160. Commander Smith has all the papers in this case with him at Falls Church, and his mother says that she is sure he will be glad to talk to you. As a matter of interest, Commander Smith was on the Noa at the time as a guest of his father and though but thirteen years old was put to work with the refugees.

I hope that this will solve all of your difficulties. I recommend that you call Commander Smith now, repeat now. Best wishes for the New Year, I am, as ever,

Sincerely,

R.W. BATES

Mr. Roger Pineau
CNO, Op-291-0
Navy Department
Washington 25, D. C.

0039

December 30, 1953

Dear Helen and Dick:

I have been wanting to write to you for sometime to thank you for the pleasure of my one-night's stay at your home on Long Island; to tell you of how much I enjoyed it, and to say how pleased I was that the gift of the Staff of the War College had been exactly what you needed.

I have delayed in writing to you because I have been in Virginia where I celebrated the Christmas Holidays with my brother, his wife, their children and grand children, and where I had little chance to write to you. However, knowing that you were to be here on New Years Day I had hoped to talk to you then. Now I understand that only you, Dick, are coming and you, Helen, will remain elsewhere. Having discovered this I must write to you immediately to wish you all happiness during the New Year.

I am sorry that both of you are not coming to Newport because there are two or three affairs underway that might interest you. Peggy McIlwaine, the Pepys, and the Reeds are giving New Years Eve dinners, and the Reeds are giving a dance, commencing after eleven O'clock. There will on New Years Day, be the usual lunch at the Reading Room, which you, Dick, are attending, then a reception by Admiral Robbins at Fort Adams, and then a cocktail party by Daisy O'Donnell. I am sure that every hostess in Newport would have been delighted and honored to have had both of you at any or all of these affairs.

I am glad to see that you are enjoying your new endeavors and that your new home will be very much to your liking once you have got the characteristic Conolly touch into it. I like it and I like the location.

I personally think that you, Dick, have a fine job which will challenge your best endeavors. I am sure that you will do well in it and will find that among other plus items it thins you out and makes you younger.

I suppose you have seen Bill Donovan, as I understand that he is home from Thailand. I am glad to hear that he has returned because the weather in Thailand is hot and humid, and Bill isn't as young as he once was. However, the change in climate between Thailand and New York and a vacation with his old friends here will remove some of the danger of his Thailand assignment. Bill is a remarkable fellow and is always seeking

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adventure somewhere. The son-of-a-gun always manages to find it somehow.

I'm moving along all right. The work is tough and slow but now that I have seen part of General MacArthur's history which seems to be off in facts I feel that my work is more important than ever.

Once again it was wonderful to see you on Long Island, it will be equally wonderful to see you, Dick, tomorrow; it will be a disappointment not to see you Helen; I wish you all happiness for next year.

Best regards

As ever,

Your old friend,

R.W. BATES

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